

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND THE OFFICERS' AND INSPECTORS GENERAL'S TEAM PLAYER AWARD

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, today, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I wish to recognize the exceptional employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award and the Officers' and Inspector General's Team Player Award.

The House's most important asset is its remarkable and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These dedicated employees have accomplished many great things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below have provided 350 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lisa Alvey, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Kevin Brennan, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

William Crudup III, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Sharon Ellis-Gregg, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

John Hodges, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Derek Johann, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

William Michalek, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Louis Miller Jr., Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Michael Modica, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Christopher Naughton, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Todd Redlin, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Ronald Simmons, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Tammy Taft, Office of the Clerk;

Louis Williams Jr., Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate the House employees receiving the House Employee Excellence Award. This award is merit based; given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the requirements of their job for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Steven Johnson, Office of Inspector General;

Diana Rodriguez, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Robert Rota Jr., Office of the Clerk;

Angelisa Sarnowski, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

And finally, we recognize and congratulate the House employees being presented the Team Player Award. This award recognizes the value the House Officers and the Inspector General place on working collaboratively across House organizations to strengthen and protect the U.S. House of Representatives. These awardees have demonstrated a collaborative attitude, commitment to achieving team objectives, respect and support of their teammates, and dedication to the betterment of House operations. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this distinguished award.

Kim Arenas, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Karen McKinstry, Office of the Clerk;

Joseph Picolla, Office of Inspector General;

Timothy Wright, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, we offer our congratulations and once again acknowledge and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. We celebrate our honorees, and we are proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BETTER LIFE IN RECOVERY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Better Life in Recovery, an organization located in Springfield, Missouri. Founded by David Stoecker, this organization is a wonderful example of community service and is an inspiration to many across the state of Missouri.

Better Life in Recovery has a mission that is twofold. Firstly, to foster dignity for those who

struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues through performing community service. Secondly, the organization seeks to generate more public awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, through the medium of educational presentations, media interviews and public safety announcements.

On September 16 of this year the organization will be hosting a fundraising race to benefit recovery programs. It will begin at Rutledge Wilson Farm in Springfield. The fact that the race is held in September is also very pertinent with regards to the Better Life in Recovery's mission as it is held during National Recovery Month. National Recovery Month runs through the month of September. The purpose of National Recovery Month is to raise awareness and understanding of the various mental and substance use disorders some of our fellow Americans suffer from. It is also a month to celebrate those who have recovered from their addictions.

Mr. Speaker, Better Life in Recovery is an inspirational organization that I am humbled to recognize today. I would like to extend my personal congratulations and admiration on their achievements and hard work over the years. On behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I wish this great organization the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, my return to Washington this week was delayed by the impacts of Hurricane Irma.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 485, NAY on Roll Call No. 486, and NAY on Roll Call No. 487.

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTORAL COLLEGE REFORM

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the resolution I am introducing today expresses the sense of Congress that it and the states should consider a constitutional amendment to reform the Electoral College and to establish a process for electing the President and Vice President by a national popular vote. The resolution also encourages the states to further their efforts to form an interstate compact to award their Electoral College votes to the national popular vote winner.

This Sunday, September 17 is Constitution Day, marks the 230th anniversary of the Philadelphia Convention's approval of the Constitution. We should rightly celebrate the day that the Framers endorsed the basic framework of our democratic system of government enshrined in our Nation's governing charter. Yet, we should also use this day as an opportunity to reflect on the fact that the Constitution still retains the Electoral College, a fundamentally